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The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes:—"The Government will consider the suggestion."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar:—"May I ask if the Government will allow the committees to take evidence from not merely Government officers but also from outside, such as retired officers who are acquainted with the internal working of these departments, as is being done by the Government of India, Sir?"

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes:—"It seems to me a matter mainly for the committee to consider."

Abolition of the Board of Revenue and the Survey and Settlement departments.

* 393 *Q.*—Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government or the Retrenchment Officer or the Retrenchment Committee have examined the question of the abolition of the Board of Revenue and the Survey and Settlement departments as a measure of retrenchment; and

(*b*) what will be the saving effected by the abolition of the abovesaid two departments?

A.—(*a*) No, but Government are at present examining certain proposals from the Board of Revenue on the subject of reducing the number of survey parties, and it is understood that the Board is considering a scheme for the reduction of expenditure on Settlement. The matter has not yet come before the Retrenchment Committee.

(*b*) The hon. Member will find the information he requires on page 57 of the Civil Budget Estimate.

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—"May I know whether the Government have any specific reasons not to abolish the Revenue Board?"

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes:—"Yes, Sir."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—"May I know what, Sir?"

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes:—"It will take too long to explain, Sir."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—"May we have a brief statement, Sir."

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes:—"The present administration is indispensable."

Mr. V. T. Arasu:—"I want to know whether the Government received any proposals from the Board of Revenue suggesting the wholesale dismissal of the Central Survey office?"

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes:—"I believe not as yet, but I want notice."